

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Specification

The specification has been amended to place such in better form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Claims Status

Claims 7 through 12 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 through 6 have been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 7 and 10 are the only independent claims pending in the application.

Rejection

Claims 1 through 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,296,903 (Suzuki, et al.).

The rationale underlying the rejection is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Rejection

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claims 1 through 6 have been canceled in lieu of Claims 7 through 12. Accordingly, further comment on the rejection is not necessary.

However, the following comments are provided for the Examiner's consideration of the newly-presented claims.

Independent Claim 7 calls for an image forming apparatus comprising toner image forming means for forming a toner image on an image bearing member; charging means

for charging the toner image on said image bearing member; a transfer member for transferring the toner image charged by said charging means from said image bearing member to a transfer medium at a transfer portion; detection means for detecting a relation between a voltage and a current on applying a monitor bias to the transfer medium, when a region of said image bearing member charged by said charging means exists in the transfer portion; and control means for controlling variably the transfer bias based on a detection result by said detection means.

In Suzuki, et al., the image forming apparatus includes toner image forming means, charging means for charging the toner image, a transfer member, and detecting means for detecting the relation between the voltage and the current.

However, the image forming apparatus of Suzuki, et al. does not have control means for variably controlling a transfer bias based on a detection result by the detection means for detecting a relation between the voltage and the current as recited in Claim 7.

The image forming apparatus of Suzuki, et al. controls the transfer voltage in accordance with a transfer efficiency of a test patch. See column 5, lines 40 through 46 for a discussion of this aspect of Suzuki, et al.

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention recited in Claim 7 is patentably distinguishable over Suzuki, et al. for at least the foregoing reasons.

Independent Claim 10

Independent Claim 10 calls for an image forming apparatus comprising a photosensitive member for bearing a toner image; charging means for charging said photosensitive member; electrosensitive latent image forming means for exposing said photosensitive member charged by said charging means to form an electrostatic latent

image; developing means for developing the electrostatic latent image to form the toner image; charge eliminating means for exposing said photosensitive member bearing the toner image to eliminate charge from said photosensitive member; transfer member for transferring the toner image from said charge eliminated photosensitive member to a transfer medium at a transfer portion by a transfer bias being applied; detection means for detecting a relation between a voltage and a current on applying a monitor bias to said transfer medium, when a region of said image bearing member which is charged by said charging means and from which charge is eliminated by said charge eliminating means exists in the transfer portion; and control means for controlling variably the transfer bias based on a detection result by said detection means.

In Suzuki, et al., the image forming apparatus includes a photosensitive member, charging means for charging the photosensitive member, electrostatic latent image forming means, a developing means, charge eliminating means for eliminating charge from the photosensitive member, and transfer member.

However, the image forming apparatus of Suzuki, et al. does not have control means for controlling variably the transfer bias based on the detection result by the detection means for detecting the relation between the voltage and the current.

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention recited in Claim 10 is patentably distinguishable over Suzuki, et al. for at least the foregoing reasons.

Dependent Claims

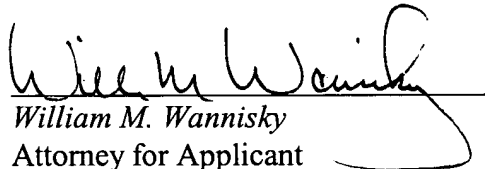
Claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 depend either directly or indirectly from one of Claims 7 and 10 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further

defining Applicant's invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,


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